

## **MINUTES**

### **MONTANA HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES 60th LEGISLATURE - REGULAR SESSION**

#### **COMMITTEE ON STATE ADMINISTRATION**

**Call to Order:** By Chairman Dennis Himmelberger, on January 19, 2007 at 8:00 A.M., in Room 455 Capitol.

#### **ROLL CALL**

**Members Present:**

Rep. Dennis Himmelberger, Chairman (R)  
Rep. Duane Ankney, Vice Chairman (R)  
Rep. Hal Jacobson, Vice Chairman (D)  
Rep. Debby Barrett (R)  
Rep. Gary Branae (D)  
Rep. Mary Caferro (D)  
Rep. Sue Dickenson (D)  
Rep. Gordon R. Hendrick (R)  
Rep. Teresa K. Henry (D)  
Rep. Pat Ingraham (R)  
Rep. William J. Jones (R)  
Rep. Bruce Malcolm (R)  
Rep. Walter McNutt (R)  
Rep. Alan Olson (R)  
Rep. Mike Phillips (D)  
Rep. Veronica Small-Eastman (D)  
Rep. Franke Wilmer (D)

**Members Excused:** Rep. Scott Sales

**Members Absent:** None

**Staff Present:** Dee Barfknecht, Committee Secretary  
Sheri Heffelfinger, Legislative Branch

**Audio Committees:** These minutes are in outline form only. They provide a list of participants and a record of official action taken by the committee. The link to the audio recording of the meeting is available on the Legislative Branch website.

**Committee Business Summary:**

Hearing:	HB 279, HB 342
Executive Action:	HB 81, HB 85, HB 129, HB 153 HB 241, HJ 7

**HEARING ON HB 279**

**Opening Statement by Sponsor:**

00:03:37 Rep. Robyn Driscoll (D), HD 51, opened the hearing on  
HB 279, Restrict signature gatherers to hourly wage.

**Proponents' Testimony:**

00:06:49 Rhonda Wiggers, Environomics  
00:11:49 Carrie Minow, Montana Education Association, Montana  
Federation of Teachers (MEA/MFT)  
00:14:28 Jessica Rhoades, Montana Democratic Party  
00:16:03 Derf Johnson, Montana Public Interest Research Group

**Opponents' Testimony:**

00:17:03 Rep. Ed Butcher  
00:26:38 Mike Fellows, Montana Libertarian Party

**Informational Testimony:** None

**Questions from Committee Members and Responses:**

00:27:50 Rep. Dickenson  
00:28:38 Mr. Johnson  
00:29:07 Rep. Dickenson  
00:30:02 Mr. Johnson  
00:30:21 Rep. Dickenson  
00:30:32 Rep. Driscoll  
00:30:56 Rep. Wilmer  
00:31:36 Rep. Driscoll  
00:32:10 Rep. Barrett  
00:33:07 Rep. Driscoll  
00:33:39 Rep. Barrett  
00:34:00 Mr. Fellows  
00:34:14 Rep. Dickenson  
00:34:31 Mr. Johnson

**Closing by Sponsor:**

00:35:04 Rep. Driscoll  
  
00:37:24 Recess  
00:41:53 Reconvene

**HEARING ON HB 342**

**Opening Statement by Sponsor:**

00:42:16 Rep. Wayne Stahl (R), HD 35, opened the hearing on HB 342, Comprehensive and systematic performance audits.

**Proponents' Testimony:** None

**Opponents' Testimony:** None

**Informational Testimony:** None

**Questions from Committee Members and Responses:**

00:45:41 Rep. Jones  
00:46:09 Rep. Stahl  
00:46:51 Rep. Jones  
00:47:30 Rep. Stahl  
00:48:15 Rep. Jones  
00:49:39 Rep. Stahl  
00:50:11 Rep. Jones  
00:50:26 Rep. Stahl  
00:51:44 Chairman Himmelberger  
00:52:17 Rep. Wilmer  
00:52:44 Rep. Stahl

**Closing by Sponsor:**

00:53:04 Rep. Stahl  
  
00:54:21 Recess  
01:06:38 Reconvene

**EXECUTIVE ACTION ON HB 81**

01:07:38 **Motion:** Rep. McNutt moved that **HB 81 DO PASS.**

**Discussion:**

01:08:37 Rep. Jones  
01:09:20 Rep. Wilmer  
01:09:56 Rep. Phillips  
01:10:25 Rep. Wilmer  
01:10:30 Rep. Phillips  
01:10:37 Sheri Heffelfinger

01:11:10 **Vote:** Motion carried unanimously by voice vote. Reps. Sales and Olson voted by proxy.

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**EXECUTIVE ACTION ON HB 85**

01:12:19 **Motion:** Rep. Hendrick moved that **HB 85 DO PASS.**

**Discussion:**

01:12:38 Rep. McNutt  
01:13:29 Rep. Wilmer  
01:14:13 Rep. Malcolm  
01:17:29 Rep. Jones  
01:19:38 Rep. Barrett  
01:21:03 Rep. Ankney

01:21:35 **Substitute Motion/Vote:** Rep. McNutt made a substitute motion that **HB 85 BE TABLED.** Substitute motion carried unanimously by roll call vote, 18-0. Reps. Sales and Olson voted by proxy.

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**EXECUTIVE ACTION ON HB 129**

01:23:16 **Motion:** Rep. Small-Eastman moved that **HB 129 DO PASS.**

**Discussion:**

01:23:28 Rep. Henry

01:23:46 **Vote:** Motion carried unanimously by voice vote. Rep. Sales and Olson voted by proxy.

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**EXECUTIVE ACTION ON HB 153**

01:25:03 **Motion:** Rep. Jacobson moved that **HB 153 DO PASS.**

**Discussion:**

01:25:25 Rep. Jacobson  
01:28:24 Rep. Malcolm  
01:28:49 Rep. Jacobson  
01:29:17 Chairman Himmelberger  
01:30:38 Janis Doggett, Secretary of State's Office  
01:31:52 Rep. Ingraham

01:32:23 Rep. Jacobson

01:33:24 Rep. McNutt

01:33:54 Rep. Jacobson

01:34:03 Rep. McNutt

01:34:15 **Vote:** Motion carried by roll call vote, 17-1. Rep.  
Sales voted no. Rep. Sales voted by proxy.

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**EXECUTIVE ACTION ON HB 241**

01:35:45 **Motion:** Rep. Ingraham moved that **HB 241 DO PASS.**

**Discussion:**

01:36:08 Rep. Barrett

01:36:27 **Vote:** Motion carried unanimously by voice vote. Rep.  
Sales voted by proxy.

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**EXECUTIVE ACTION ON HJ 7**

01:37:06 **Motion:** Rep. Jacobson moved that **HJ 7 DO PASS.**

**Discussion:**

01:37:19 Rep. Jacobson

01:38:04 **Vote:** Motion carried unanimously by voice vote. Rep.  
Sales voted by proxy.

**ADJOURNMENT**

01:40:25 Adjournment

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REP. DENNIS HIMMELBERGER, Chairman

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DEE BARFKNECHT, Secretary

DH/db

Additional Exhibits:

**EXHIBIT ([sth13aad.pdf](#))**